



## *Cotton Insect Newsletter*

Letter #14

Edisto Research & Education Center in Blackville, SC

3 August 2006

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### *Newsletter Archives*

Previous newsletters for 2006 are archived at <http://www.clemson.edu/edisto/cotton/cotton.htm>. Please distribute hard copies or electronic newsletter files to all interested, and please provide weekly input for the newsletter. Your observations and local knowledge are important – email or phone in your comments to me!

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### *Crop Situation*

On 30 July 2006, the USDA NASS South Carolina Statistical Office reported our progress as 93% squaring, just ahead of the 5-yr average of 92%. About 55% of the crop is setting bolls, ahead of the 5-yr average of 50%. About 3% of the state's cotton crop was reported to be in excellent condition. The remainder was reported as 39% good, 35% fair, **22% poor (up from 9% last week!)**, and 1% very poor. These are observed/perceived state-wide averages.

### *News from Above the Lakes*

John Boswell reported from Williamsburg County that he was seeing 80+ eggs per 100 plants and finding many on the dried bloom tags. He was also finding caterpillars in blooms.

Randy Cubbage reported late last week that “Collins Gardner, consultant, said late yesterday (26 July - Wednesday) he was finding 200% eggs in some fields and they were going to treat these fields (stacked genes).”

Mitch Binnarr reported on Tuesday about cotton near the NC/SC border that had “a very heavy egg lay” last week. He noted that “bollworm damage at the tips of bolls was common. Today's (1 August) egg counts were 100-120%. The area had received rainfall, and cotton was in full flower. Treatment decisions (are being) made based on egg counts.”

### *News from Below the Lakes*

Carl Sanders reported that numbers of heliothine eggs were down in fields he is checking. He has seen some fall armyworms in spots and is starting to see more stink bugs (green stink bugs mostly, with some browns). He also is seeing more than “normal” numbers of bollworm larvae in Bt cotton.

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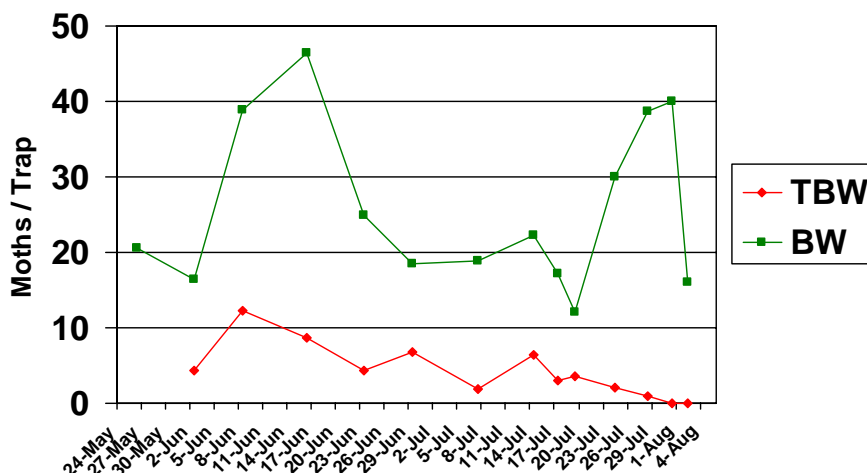
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### **Tobacco Budworm & Bollworm**

Trap captures at the Edisto Research & Education Center near Blackville, SC are shown below through 2 August 2006. We had a sustained flight of bollworm for most of July before it peaked on us here recently. I have heard about a lot of cotton (Bt and non-Bt) being treated for bollworm in the last few weeks. There have been some reports of less-than-adequate control of bollworm with pyrethroids. Some suspected that they had tobacco budworm in their non-Bt cotton they were spraying. I examined numerous caterpillars under the microscope collected from non-Bt cotton from multiple areas that were treated twice with a pyrethroid, and they were all bollworm. Luckily, reports from this week indicate that we might be getting better control than we did two or three weeks ago. My advice on this subject would be to not try to cut rates at this point. Use a high rate when you spray. Keep an eye on first-generation Bt cotton (Bollgard) in places where it has been really dry.

#### **Pheromone Trap Capture (EREC - 2006)**



### **Stink Bugs**

Numbers of stink bugs are building. When I start shaking in plots and three or four fall on the cloth on one shake, I know it is August. If I were naming months, August would be “National (or at least “Southeast”) Stink Bug Month”. Now is the time to be vigilant for stink bugs. I know that many have already been controlling stink bugs, but now is the critical time. We are likely going to not need as many sprays for bollworm in the next few weeks, so let’s not let our guard down and allow bugs to take some yield. Open bolls and check for feeding symptoms. You have heard this from me before – it does not take very long to open numerous bolls when you are looking for just one symptom per boll. Pop them open by hand and examine for warts and damaged seed and lint associated with feeding by sucking bugs (see pictures below). Treat if more than 20% of them have feeding symptoms. Also, I know it is something else to carry in a field, but use a shake cloth or drop cloth. I will not go into a field without one. In my opinion, there is no faster way to tell what is going on in a field. Five minutes spent with a drop cloth is worth more than 10 minutes or more “scouting” for bugs. If you cannot use a drop cloth, you need to at least open bolls this month. Remember, August is “Southeastern Stink Bug Month”.



### **Need More Information?**

Log on to the following webpage to view important cotton management recommendations, data, and historical cotton insect newsletters: <http://www.clemson.edu/scg/ipm/cotton.html>

To see cotton insect newsletters for this year, go to the following webpage to view the cotton page at the Edisto Research & Education Center. <http://www.clemson.edu/edisto/cotton/cotton.htm>

We will continue to update this webpage in the coming months.

Sincerely,

Jeremy K. Greene, Ph.D.  
Cotton Entomologist



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<http://www.clemson.edu>

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